Cameron, John Home [Head, Department of French, U.C.] January - June 1920

(067)

University of Toronto
TORONTO, CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH

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January 13, 1920

Dear Mr. President,

I have now, after many attempts, succeeded in filling the vacancy left by Mr. Unwin's resignation from the work of the First and Second Years. But it is necessary to divide these four class periods among two new men, Mr. Francis Owen, M.A., who will take two hours, and Mr. Guy de Lestard, who will take the two remaining ones.

Calculating the remuneration on the basis I proposed to you at our last interview, I think that, for the remainder of the year, the sum of a hundred and fifty dollars for each would be a fairly reasonable payment.

The teaching of the other classes is for the present being divided amongst Mr. Jeanneret, Mr. Morand, Mr. McKellar, and myself: Mr. Jeanneret taking the Second Year Pass in Arts

(Three hours); Mr. Morand, Mr. McKellar, and I taking two hours each with the students in Medicine; and I myself taking the new class beginning this week in the Faculty of Applied Science. This seems to be the best we can do at this very unfavourable time for securing outside help. It will, of course, cost the University nothing additional for the work done in Medicine and Applied Science, as all four of us are on the regular staff. The burden of this work is quite heavy, especially for Mr. Jeanneret, who has the afternoon teachers' classes and his work as Registrar; but the emergency is very serious and has to be faced in such a way as not to reduce the teaching by a single hour.

Believe me to remain
Yours faithfully
J. Home Cameron

Sir Robert Falconer
President of the University.

$500. remaining of amt. which was Mr. Cameron was to receive.
14/11/20.
CG.

University of Toronto
TORONTO, CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH

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March 1. 1920

My Dear President,

I have discussed with other members of the staff the arrangements we might make for Prof. Le Bidois's lecture, in case you thought it well to invite him to speak in the University.

It is now so late in the year that the students can not be depended on to furnish a large audience; but a number of the people who attend the Alliance française meetings and M. Morand's lectures would probably come. We could not, I suppose, demand an admission fee, and the usual remuneration for the lecturer would in some way have to be made up by the University, as well as the travelling expenses.

In this latter connection it has occurred to me that it might not be thought necessary

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to adapt our arrangements to the date fixed by the Queen's University Staff for Prof. Le Bidois, but to choose our own time, and have him come directly from Montreal for our lecture. That would give us more liberty, and would not add a great deal to the expense.

In the meantime it would perhaps be useful to ask for a list of the subjects on which Prof. Le Bidois would like to lecture, so that we may make a choice appropriate to our own local conditions in as far as may be.

I regret that I have not been able till after five o'clock to get a moment to call at your office. But I am sure you have been overwhelmed with other arrears of business of much greater importance than this. I should like to join with the rest of our staff in an expression of pleasure at learning that you have been able to be here for a while to-day, and to wish you a rapid and complete recovery of health.

Believe me to remain

Very faithfully yours

J. Home Cameron

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University of Toronto.
TORONTO, CANADA.

Memorandum regarding the Summer Session:—

As there is only one Instructor needed for the Summer Session, and as Mr. McKellar is doing the correction of the Second year "Correspondence" Exercises during the winter, it is appropriate that he should be appointed to do the teaching during the Summer Courses.

J. Home Cameron

University of Toronto
TORONTO, CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH

May 12. 1920

Sir Robert Falconer
President of the University

My dear President,

As I have now had definite intimation from Mr. W. Dorland Evans that he will be glad to join our staff in French for next year, he might be appointed at any time. The same might be done also in Mr. G. H. Unwin's case, as I understand him to be quite willing to accept an appointment at the salary I mentioned in my list. That would be $2,500 for Unwin, and $1800 for Evans.

The degrees held by these men are Mr. W. D. Evans, B.A., and Mr. G. H. Unwin, B.S.A. Mr. Unwin will no doubt have his B.A. at the next Commencement.

Extracted from Vol. LII

University of Toronto
TORONTO, CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH

June 15, 1920

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My dear Sir Robert,

After thinking over the points mentioned in the interview you were kind enough to give me on Saturday, I feel that I should not be fair to my own department, nor to you as the Head of the University, if I did not further try to point out the very grave situation we are facing in French in University College. We have had, at one time and another, nearly 800 students in French during this Academic year, and there is no prospect of fewer numbers in the next year. Some 300 of these will confront us in the Pass course in October, and we shall need six, if not seven, divisions, with competent instructors. It is going to be very difficult to secure these. Mr. Unwin will not return, nor will Mr. Dixon, both of whom have got better offers elsewhere than we could give. Mr. McAndrew, an excellent teacher, is uncertain of being able to give us the time I have asked of him, even at better remuneration. Mr. Evans is a new and untried man, and any others we may get will be these same. In a less degree these remarks apply to the second year Pass classes, and even to the Third and Fourth.

We shall have far more varied work than ever, as I have pointed out elsewhere, and we shall need a stronger staff.

In view of these facts, and still others which I could mention, if there were time, it appears to me most regrettable that we are in serious danger of losing our very best "all-round" man just when we need him most. I refer to Mr. Jeanneret, who is, as far as undergraduate work is concerned, by far the most generally useful member of the French staff. No one is more willing to carry heavy burdens of all sorts, and to take on those which have to be dropped by others. As a teacher, he is very satisfactory and well liked. And if he has not been able to publish anything important of his own, the fault is partly ours, in giving him so much to do. His graduate work at Chicago was considered very promising, and quite superior to the best average.

In urging all this, and in asking special consideration of him, as I am doing now, I am not speaking for his stead. Indeed, he has definitely said that he is unwilling to have any further efforts made on his behalf. So that I am obliged to say that it is the interests of the French Department and University College I wish to plead as a justification for asking whether you could not take one more step in an endeavour to retain him. From several interviews I have asked him to give me, I am able to infer, with what is practically absolute certainty, that if he were sure of being promoted, for the year 1921-1922, to the Associate-Professorship, he would be quite satisfied to stay permanently. He says he made that a condition of his remaining when you

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discussed the situation with him some time ago, a fact which he thinks may have been forgotten after all this time.

I am able to add this, that the offer made him (elsewhere) is taking most definite form now, and that financially it will be much more than we can give him for some time, although it does not involve the abandonment of the profession of teaching; but he would let it go for a better post in his own College.

I am sorry to trouble you again, but the situation is almost desperate.

As regards Mr. McKellar, he is one of the best men we could get; and I hope that the increase for him to $2500 is not contingent on the University obtaining the money for the latest increases. We agreed on that figure before the new increases were mentioned at all, when we offered Unwin the same — a man of far less experience.

I shall be away from the City till Thursday morning of next week; but I hope I have done all in my power to avoid any misconception regarding our Staff and its needs. I am reserving the names of possible appointees to the other posts until I see how matters turn out. I have two persons now in view. But I can take this up with you later.

Believe me to remain
very respectfully yours J. Horne Cameron